

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention discloses a novel  
secreted polypeptide, termed osteoprotegerin, which is  
5 a member of the tumor necrosis factor receptor  
superfamily and is involved in the regulation of bone  
metabolism. Also disclosed are nucleic acids encoding  
osteoprotegerin, polypeptides, recombinant vectors and  
host cells for expression, antibodies which bind OPG,  
10 and pharmaceutical compositions. The polypeptides are  
used to treat bone diseases characterized by increased  
resorption such as osteoporosis.

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